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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE STUDENTS' ARMY TRAINING CORPS

IN a letter from the War Department addressed to the colleges of the United States, August 28, 1918, the general plans under which the Students' Army Training Corps will operate this year were outlined. Among the most important statements were the following:

1. All young men, who were planning to go to school this fall, should carry out their plans and do so. Each should go to the college of his choice, matriculate and enter as a regular student. He will, of course, also register with his local board on the registration day set by the President. As soon as possible after registration day, probably on or about October first, opportunity will be given for all the regularly-enrolled students to be inducted into the Students' Army Training Corps at the schools where they are in attendance. Thus the Corps will be organized by voluntary induction under the Selective Service Act, instead of by enlistment as previously contemplated.

The student, by voluntary induction, becomes a soldier in the United States Army, uniformed, subject to military discipline and with the pay of a private. They will simultaneously be placed on full active duty and contracts will be made as soon as possible, with the colleges for the housing, subsistence and instruction of the student soldiers.

2. Officers, uniforms, rifles and such other equipment as may be available will be furnished by the War Department, as previously announced.

3. The student-soldiers will be given military instruction under officers of the Army and will be kept under observation and test to determine their qualification as officer-candidates, and technical experts such as engineers, chemists and doctors. After a certain period, the men will be selected according to their performance, and assigned to military duty in one of the following ways:

(a) He may be transferred to a central officers' training camp.

(b) He may be transferred to a non-commissioned officers' training school.

(c) He may be assigned to the school where he is enrolled for further intensive work in a specified line for a limited specified time.

(d) He may be assigned to the vocational training section of the corps for technician training of military value.

(e) He may be transferred to a cantonment for duty with troops as a private.

4. Similar sorting and reassignment of the men will be made at periodical intervals, as the requirements of the service demand. It can not be now definitely stated how long a particular student will remain at college. This will depend on the requirements of the mobilization and the age group to which he belongs. In order to keep the unit at adequate strength, men will be admitted from secondary schools or transferred from Depot Brigades as the need may require.

5. No units of the Students' Army Training Corps will, for the present, be established at secondary schools, but it is hoped to provide at an early date for the extension of military instruction in such schools. The secondary schools are urged to intensify their instruction so that young men seventeen and eighteen years old may be qualified to enter college as promptly as possible.

6. There will be both a collegiate section and vocational section of the Students' Army Training Corps. Young men of draft age of grammar school education will be given opportunity to enter the vocational section of the corps. At present about 27,500 men are called for this section each month. Application for voluntary induction into the vocational section should be made to the local board and an effort will be made to accommodate as many as possible of those who volunteer for this training.

Men in the vocational section will be rated and tested by the standard Army methods and those who are found to possess the requisite qualifications may be assigned to further training in the collegiate section.

7. In view of the comparatively short time during which most of the student-soldiers will remain in college and the exacting military duties awaiting them, academic instruction must necessarily be modified along lines of direct military value. The War Department will prescribe or suggest such modifications. The schedule of purely military instruction will not preclude effective academic work. It will vary to some extent in accordance with the type of academic instruction, *e. g.*, will be less in a medical school than in a college of liberal arts.

8. The primary purpose of the Students' Army Training Corps is to utilize the executive and teaching personnel and the physical equipment of the colleges to assist in the training of our new armies. This imposes great responsibilities on the colleges and at the same time creates an exceptional opportunity for service. The colleges are asked to devote the whole energy and educational power of the institution to the phases and lines of training de-

sired by the government. The problem is a new one and calls for inventiveness and adaptability as well as that spirit of cooperation which the colleges have already so abundantly shown.

THE EPIDEMIC OF SPANISH INFLUENZA

IN an effort to prevent an epidemic of Spanish influenza throughout the United States, Surgeon-General Blue of the Public Health Service has provided a list of methods for the control of the disease. From a telegraphic survey made by General Blue it was discovered that the disease had broken out in six United States seaport towns, Fort Morgan, near Mobile, Ala.; Newport News, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, New London and New Orleans.

Dr. Blue's bulletin of information on the disease issued primarily for physicians, contains information as follows:

Infectious Agent—The bacillus influenza of Pfeiffer.

Sources of Infection—The secretions from the nose, throat and respiratory passages of cases or of carriers.

Incubation Period—One to four days; generally two.

Mode of Transmission—By direct contact or indirect contact through the use of handkerchiefs, common towels, cups, mess gear or other objects contaminated with fresh secretions. Droplet infection plays an important part.

Period of Communicability—As long as the person harbors the causative organism in the respiratory tract.

Methods of Control—The infected individual and his environment.

Recognition of the Disease—By clinical manifestations and bacteriological findings.

Isolation—Bed isolation of infected individuals during the course of the disease. Screens between beds are to be recommended.

Immunization—Vaccines are used with only partial success.

Quarantine—None; impracticable.

Concurrent Disinfection—The discharges from the mouth, throat, nose and other respiratory passages.

Terminal Disinfection—Thorough cleansing, airing and sunning. The causative organism is short-lived outside the host.

General Measures—The attendant of the case should wear a gauze mask. During epidemics per-

sons should avoid crowded assemblages, street cars and the like. Education as regards the danger of promiscuous coughing and spitting. Patients, because of the tendency to the development of broncho-pneumonia, should be treated in well-ventilated, warm rooms.

SAN FRANCISCO JOINT COUNCIL OF NATIONAL ENGINEERING SOCIETIES

FIVE national engineering societies which have San Francisco sections on September 4 organized what is to be known as the Joint Council of the Engineering Societies of San Francisco. The societies represented are the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers and the American Chemical Society. Four representatives from each of these societies, making twenty men in all, form the joint council, which in turn is officered by an executive committee of five. The members of this executive committee are: C. D. Marx, chairman; E. C. Jones and E. C. Hutchinson, vice-chairman; N. A. Bowers, secretary-treasurer, and E. O. Shreve, assistant secretary.

We learn from the *Electrical World* that this organization is the outcome of several meetings of the secretaries of the five societies involved at which plans for more effective inter-society cooperation have been worked out. Some of the expected advantages are a closer touch among members of the several associations, putting the several employment bureaus together in one central office, joint meetings to discuss subjects of common interest, cooperation for the sake of economy as in mailing notices, consolidating headquarters at the Engineers' Club, etc.

In a paper on this subject read at a recent joint meeting it was pointed out that membership in a national engineering society has always carried with it a certain amount of prestige. Here in the Far West we have been content with little besides that as a return for our annual dues. In recent years local sections have taken on new importance, and it is not now uncommon to find the man who believes he can get more real benefit from his